

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Rotational Assignment Program Opportunity
in partnership with
Department of Interior

Occupational Category:

Managerial _____ Analytical _____ Technical X _____
Analytical _____ Clerical/Support _____ Other _____

Level of Responsibility: GS 9+ Pay Band _____ WG/WM _____

Duration: 3 months X to 6 months X Other _____

Timeframe: 1st quarter _____ 2nd quarter _____ 3rd quarter X 4th quarter _____

Title of Assignment: Program/Performance Management

General Description:

The Office of Planning and Performance Management in the Department of the Interior is looking for highly motivated, self-starting individuals to be detailed for 2 weeks or longer to provide project management assistance for the exciting interagency Recreation One-Stop “e-gov” initiative and its *Recreation.gov* web portal.

The Recreation One-Stop initiative is one of 24 high-priority “e-gov” efforts to implement the President’s Management Agenda. The *Recreation.gov* website provides “one-stop shopping” for people looking for places to enjoy common recreational activities, such as hiking and boating. For more background, see www.recreation.gov/aboutrecgov.cfm

The Department of the Interior is the “managing partner” responsible for project management. Participating partners include:

National Park Service	Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management	US Army Corps of Engineers
Fish and Wildlife Service	Federal Highway Administration
Bureau of Reclamation	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
US Geological Survey	Smithsonian Institution
Bureau of Indian Affairs	Tennessee Valley Authority

Recreation.gov receives close attention and support from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and high-level management officials in the partner agencies. The initiative is a leader in the implementation of citizen-centered electronic government. It provides information and

facilitates transactions based on customer interests, and is not limited by the specific boundaries of Federal agency responsibilities. A major part of the initiative involves establishing and enhancing partnerships across organizational lines, working with a variety of Federal agencies, States, Local, and Tribal governments, and non-governmental stakeholders.

Recreation.gov is establishing “best practices” examples for following the guidance in OMB Circular A-130 regarding system development, including implementation of the new Federal Enterprise Architecture. Specific opportunities have been identified regarding communications/outreach (including news media and educational audiences), data standards development, implementation of XML and Web services, customer relationship management, web site development, project/performance management, privacy, records management, and data quality assurance.

The participant will work under the direction of the Project Manager, and will interact closely with the Director, Office of Planning and Performance Management, senior staff of the participating partners, and stakeholders. The position will involve contact and coordination with numerous organizations with the Department of the Interior and with other federal and non-federal entities. This is an excellent opportunity to gain knowledge and exposure to emerging Internet and E-government policy development and project management.

Assignment Objective:

Recreation One-Stop is an initiative whose performance can be documented. As a high-visibility project, it can serve as a “best practice” implementation of the Performance Reference Model and of strategic planning and performance evaluation in general

Description of tasks:

The participant will be responsible for one or more of the following:

- 1) refine the performance measures for the RecML and Recreation.gov components of the project to update the Performance Reference Model
- 2) document the “use cases” and update the user requirements for the project
- 3) identify the most relevant Strategic Plan goals and GPRA-related performance objectives for the project, as defined by the partner agencies
- 4) document how the project generated the results desired in Annual Performance Plans of the partner agencies
- 5) suggest modifications in the project and/or the performance goals of the partner agencies to align them more closely

Special Requirements and Selection Criteria:

Duty station is Main Interior building, C Street SW D.C.

NOAA Line/Staff Office: Office of the Chief Information Officer

Point of Contact: Carl P. Staton, CIO (Carl.Staton@noaa.gov) (310) 713-9600

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Administrative _____ Clerical/Support _____ Other_____

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Duration: 3 months __**X**__ to 6 months __**X**__ Other_____

Timeframe: 1st quarter__ 2nd quarter__ 3rd quarter__**X**__ 4th quarter__

Title of Assignment: Web Site Developer

General Description:

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Assignment Objective:

The Recreation.gov website will always be in a stage of revision and relaunching. Continuous improvement is required to keep the website aligned with the interests of the target audiences.

Description of tasks:

The participant will be responsible for one or more of the following:

- 1) define the key messages and target audiences for Recreation.gov
- 2) define the secondary messages and secondary target audiences for Recreation.gov
- 3) align the communications objectives/strategy for the website with the overall communications objectives/strategy for the project and with the other e-gov initiatives receiving close OMB oversight
- 4) evaluate the impact of the website and recommend changes to make it more effective
- 5) evaluate the technical procedures for maintaining/expanding the website and recommend improvements to improve performance, enhance data quality and customer service, and reduce costs
- 6) revise the look-and-feel to improve the effectiveness of the website
- 7) update and add new content based on the communications strategy for the website
- 8) get more links to Recreation.gov from other websites
- 9) train others in the technical procedures to access, update, and add new content to Recreation.gov

Special Requirements and Selection Criteria:

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Title of Assignment: Data Standard Development Assistant

General Description:

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Assignment Objective:

Recreation.gov should be an example of a “best practice” for use of XML and Web services for data exchange, even as RecML evolves. The practical implementation of Web services and the lessons to be learned will provide a solid understanding of the new technology – and then we need to share that experience with others.

Description of tasks:

The participant will be responsible for one or more of the following:

- 1) describe how Web services and XML are used by Recreation.gov, for both technical and non-technical audiences
- 2) assist in debugging submissions from potential data exchange partners and interpreting why files from Recreation.gov were not validated successfully by others
- 3) identify where data exchange procedures require revision to enhance the implementation of Web services with states and other data sharing partners
- 4) evaluate the impact of using XML and Web services, especially how it actually affected the workload of the project staff and data sharing partners (did it actually streamline operations?) and the reliability of the data being exchanged describe the “lessons learned” and best practices to follow, for the benefit of other project managers and Web architects

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Title of Assignment: Web System Administration

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Assignment Objective:

The current Recreation.gov website runs on a Windows 2000 server using ColdFusion, SQLserver, and IIS. The future architecture will be based on the .Net platform, and the system must be well-documented before conversion.

Description of tasks:

The participant will be responsible for one or more of the following:

- 1) review existing documentation, including system architecture and Standard Operating Procedures
- 2) revise documentation, working with the Web architect, to ensure completeness and clarity
- 3) identify changes required in existing application and define tasks for Web architect (or participant) to convert to .Net architecture
- 4) evaluate implementation of pilot test on development server
- 5) facilitate cutover to new .Net platform
- 6) prepare “lessons learned” documentation regarding the shift to the new platform

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